

REMARKS

Blooming is an art-recognized aesthetic defect afflicting thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU) resins derived upon a reaction of

- (i) a hydroxy functional **polybutylene adipate** having a number average molecular weight of 2000 to 5000,
- (ii) a chain extender selected from among diols and diamines, and
- (iii) an organic diisocyanate.

Directed to a method for making these resins bloom-free, the present invention resides in the finding that the defect is avoided by melt blending with the recited TPU in a molten state, an effective amount of a chain terminator that is either a monofunctional alkylene alcohol having at least 14 carbon atoms or mono-isocyanates.

The claims (2, 4-8 and 11-14) stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) said to be unpatentable over Werner (DE3131760).

Werner disclosed a procedure for improving the flowability of TPU. The relevant disclosure refers to treating such TPU with a C₁₋₃₀ -alkanols to bring about its lowered viscosity.

It is not completely clear why or how Werner's disclosure relative to the flow of TPU could be taken as rendering obvious the inventive method for alleviating blooming.

Werner's disclosure of adding stearyl alcohol to molten TPU, based on butane diol-hexane diol polyadipate, polyester diols having presently relevant molecular weights and NCO/OH ratios, all in the context of lowering the viscosity of TPU is presently immaterial. The rejection sounding in obviousness is respectfully asserted to be arbitrary in view of the Examiner's failure to elucidate a connection between the referenced lowered viscosity and the inventive avoidance of blooming.

Applicants respectfully submit that Werner falls short of the *prime facie* case and that the rejection of the claims under section 103 is untenable. Retraction of the rejection is requested.

Believing the above represent a complete response to the Office Action and that the application is in condition for allowance, Applicants request the earliest issuance of an indication to this effect.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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